mission has fixed any dates for elections to the Metropolitan Council in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

US action under Super 301

334. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps that have been taken so far to counter the U.S. action under Super 301 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : A Statement is attached.

Statement

Under the "Super 301" provision of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1989, the US Government is required to identify 'priority practices' of foreign countries whose elimination was likely to have the most significant potential to increase US exports. Taking into account the number and pervasiveness of these trade practices, the US Government is also required to identify priority foreign countries for initiating investigation to determine whether the practices were actionable under Section 301.

On 25 May, 1989, the US Government identified India, Brazil and Japan as priority foreign countries for action under the Act. The priority practices identified in respect of India are trade-related investment measures that prohibit or burden investment and barriers to trade in services, specifically the closure of India's insurance market to foreign insurance companies. On 16 June, 1989, the US Trade Representative initiated investigation of the priority practices in order to determine whether they are actionable under Section 301 of the Trade Act. According to the provisions of the Act, the determination of unfairness of the practices is to be made generally within 12 months after the date on which the investigation has been initiated.

Even before the identification of priority countries by the US Government under the Super 301 provisions, we had joined many other countries in strong condemnation of the proposed US action. However, the initiation of investigations by the US Government does not constitute an actual violation of its international obligations towards India. Hence, no formal legal proceeding has been initiated so far in GATT. Nevertheless, we have taken up the matter in the GATT Council, in the meetings of the Uruguay Round Negotiating Groups as well as in the Surveillance Body established in the Uruguay Round to voice our concerns. We have also been eliciting support for condemnation of the US action from other countries bilaterally. India's stand has received wide support and the US action has been criticised by both developed and developing countries in various fora. The US Government has not yet approached us for negotiations in the context of Super 301. We have, however, made it clear that Government of India will not participate in any negotiations, bilateral or otherwise, under threat of retaliation. Government is also opposed to negotiations establishing linkages between multilaterally agreed concessions in trade in goods and changes in policy

lying within the domain of autonomous national economic policies. Our strategy has been to put as much international pressure as possible to deter the USA from pursuing the path of unilateralism.

Elections to the Legislative Assembly in Punjab

335. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has fixed any dates for elections to the Legislative Assembly in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Review of Pepsi Project

336. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Doubts on Pepsi food processing" which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 27th January, 1990 to the effect that the All India Soft Drinks Manufacturers' Association expressed concern over the escalating cost of the Pepsi Project and wondered whether the US multinational had any interest in export or fruit processing; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether they are going to have second thought over this project?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Divergent views have been expressed on the Punjab Agro Industries-Pepsico-Voltas project. They are under the active consideration of the Government.

Violation of RBI Norms by Institutions

337. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the 'Financial Express' of 10th December, 1989 regarding violation of RBI norms by the institutions; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto stating the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that their attention has been drawn to the said press report. The matter is under their examination.

Raids conducted at the Business and Industrial Premises of Mr. Manu Chhabria

338. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence conducted raids at the business and residential premises of a leading non-resident Indian, Mr. Manu Chhabria in Bombay, Delhi and Bangalore during the month of January: